

Stewards of the environment

Team revives life of stream

By Andrew Stamer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Europe
District Public Affairs Office

The 284th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works has spent \$175,000 for the reconstruction of the small stream Oberlache that runs about 350 meters through the Giessen Depot.

The project is an example of the environmental protection efforts of the U.S. Army as well as the good cooperation between German and American authorities, officials said.

So-called stream re-naturalization is not new in Germany, and the roots of this project stretch back to 2001. "We received a letter from the host nation asking us to bring the stream, which has been regulated decades ago, back to its natural condition. Regulation of streams was fashionable in Germany years ago and we don't exactly know when the stream was reconstructed, but on the maps of 1938 it was already regulated," said Thomas Cahn, chief of the 284th BSB DPW environmental management division.

Though these cosmetic features may have seemed like good ideas at the time, it has turned out they weren't so good for these streams, causing them to flow too fast and overflow very easily, said Cahn.

Cahn requested support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District.

"A regulation within the State of Hessen states that once the use of a stream changes and it is no longer needed, then it must be re-naturalized or restored, as close as possible to the original condition," said Pat Cagney, biologist with the Corps of Engineers. The Corps agreed to support the 284th BSB DPW in the execution. Although it is a voluntary project, it is also something the Corps of



Photo by Konstantin Gross

To bring the Oberlache back to its natural condition curves have been put into the stream and it has been widened. Plans include the re-establishment of local flora and fauna.

Engineers does as good stewards to the environment," said Cagney.

With the backing of German officials from the Nature Preservation, Giessen water officials, Installation Management Agency-Europe and the 104th Area Support Group, the Corps of Engineers and the 284th BSB DPW environmental division teamed up to start a project that would give the stream back its vitality.

The Oberlache had been impacted from many different face-lifts that it had received. The latest was when it was being used to feed a steam plant, said Cagney. It may have been a good way to feed the steam plant, but the 350 meters that are being re-naturalized were the worst part.

Streams that have been lined with concrete and have had blockages put in become sterile areas, he said. "The local flora and fauna don't thrive well, and in order to preserve some of that local ecology, you want to put that back into its functioning condition."

"The water itself is in very good condition because no waste water is running off into the stream," said Konstantin Gross, environmental engineer of the 284th BSB DPW. Without the clean water, the task would be much more difficult, he said.

What makes this area of the stream so bad is that this is the narrow, straight, concrete portion where the water flows very fast. Furthermore weirs (dams) were put in place, which obstructed fish movement. This has

made it difficult for many species that would occur naturally in a stream of this type to inhabit this ecosystem, and only a small population of special kinds of fish can live in the stream under this condition, said Gross.

The process of getting back to a functional condition takes effort. Curves are being put back into the stream, and it will be widened. The concrete will also no longer disrupt the water's ability to seep into the banks and ground, and rocks will give a place for fish to hide, said Gross.

All of these factors will also help contribute to a much needed element for life — oxygen. The enlarged surface area increases the humidity in the air with evaporation, which in turn increases the plant population and air quality, enabling the team to first get fish and then to re-establish local flora and fauna.

More fish and insects to inhabit area

While only a few select species of fish are able to live in this habitat now, after re-naturalization it should be habitable for 10-12 different kinds of fish, said Gross. More insect species will also be able to inhabit the area.

After construction is completed, which is expected sometime in January, it may take a few years for all the plants and animals to repopulate this portion of the stream, he said.

While the Corps provided the environmental specialists and expertise, it took the help of many to get the project underway. "It really was a homegrown effort from the city of Giessen and the BSB. Without their help, we couldn't have done it," said Cagney.

"We enjoyed working on the project because it was a once in a lifetime chance to take part in a re-naturalization effort. Most of us involved will probably never have a chance to do something like this again," said Cahn. (Alexandra Williams contributed to this article.)



Raising awareness about U.S. military training near Friedberg

Brig. Gen. Oscar Anderson, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for support, Col. Peter Mansoor, 1st Brigade commander, and officials of the 284th Base Support Battalion and local communities discuss training aspects during a visit to the Friedberg Local Training Area. Mansoor invited host nation officials to the LTA to watch an armored unit exercise and to talk about issues of concern. Forestry officials and city representatives viewed Bradley tank training and learned about the Army's re-naturalization projects to environmentally restore the areas. When addressing the guests, Anderson underlined the importance of public awareness of the ongoing training activities and emphasized the importance of close-knit German-American relations. The open discussion was much appreciated, attendees said.

Photo by Petra Roberts

Librarian receives prestigious award

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

When Ann Burski, 284th Base Support Battalion librarian, receives the Department of the Army Career Recreation Award in December it will be among the highlights of a distinguished career.

Being nominated for the prestigious award left her speechless said Burski, who has provided dedicated service to Soldiers and families in U.S. Army Europe for more than four decades. "I was very surprised because it's the first time that a librarian is being rewarded. But even more rewarding is the appreciation and recognition by my peers. This means a lot to me," she said.

The award recognizes staff members in the recreation field who provide significant recreation activities.

Since arriving in Giessen five years ago Burski has brought many changes to the library program in Giessen and Friedberg. She enhanced existing programs but also brought innovations to the BSB. Through her efforts the library now supports outreach storytelling times to the child development centers. She sponsored storytelling training to child development center employees and also enlarged the BSB libraries by incorporating book collections from closed libraries. She turns into the book witch during the summer reading program in an effort to inspire literacy among younger children.

"I was very surprised because it's the first time that a librarian is being rewarded. But even more rewarding is the appreciation and recognition of my peers."

Based on her initiative an old bus was repaired and fixed up with seats, bookshelves and cabinets and now serves in the summer as a rolling library visiting housing areas throughout the 284th BSB.

"I truly enjoy working in the 284th BSB, because we are able to offer these great programs to the children. It's a lot of fun," she said.

Burski began her career in 1965 as an army librarian in Frankfurt. "I came here with a friend, and we planned to stay for two years. Shortly after our arrival in Germany I met my (German) husband. Forty years later my friend's long gone and I'm still here," she said.

Her career brought her to libraries in Frankfurt, Oberammergau, Baumholder, Hanau, Nürnberg and Wiesbaden. She also worked as the community recreation chief in Wiesbaden. During her stays she managed to convert nonappropriated fund positions into appropriated fund positions and achieved online status for the libraries in Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Giessen.

"I never regretted staying in Germany, because I always had interesting jobs and I saw many changes in all these years," she said.

"The work in libraries is different from what it used to be," Burski said. "Automation has made the work easier and more efficient. The capability of no longer filing cards has allowed



Photo by Gabriele Denhardt

Ann Burski has been awarded the Department of the Army Career Recreation Award.

the public service to change. It's wonderful to see that the profession has changed that way. You cannot imagine what a relief it is was to get rid of the general filing by hand."

"Working as a librarian is a very rewarding job. It's far-reaching because we promote the well-being of human kind and preserve our culture by putting more importance on the ethnic cultures and values. It's this mixture that makes the United States a great country," she said.

Career day gives students an insight on professions

By Edwina Smith

Giessen Middle and High School

The Giessen Middle and High School recently held a career day for their students giving them a chance to learn about various careers.

Guidance counselors Edwina Smith and Willis Butler contacted various military members to discuss their careers with the student

body. The students in grades seven to 12 were able to attend two presentations. Most popular with the students were the sessions with a doctor and a detective.

Maj. Claude Burnett, an obstetrician at the Heidelberg Army Hospital, emphasized that now is the right time for the middle school students to prepare to pursue their career ambitions because study

habits and work ethics are developed during the middle school years.

Special agent in charge Mark Pezel of Friedberg held the students' interest with his presentation about a career as a detective.

1st Sgt. Paul Vallade of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, showed students the parts

of a diesel engine.

Giessen Middle and High school staff members Jonathan Petrick and Ronald Merriwether talked about the joys and the challenges of being educators. Educational technologist Andrew Cornett caught the attention of students interested in a career in computer technology.

Other local contributors were Gloria Garvin, manager of the

Andrews Federal Credit Union, Capt. Timothy Haynes from legal services, Achim Nicolai from the fire department, 1st Lt. Isaiah Shea and Timothy Alba of the 16th Engineer Battalion.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets Ashlee Urzi, Sascha Brazier, Gerard Hicks, Chris Williams and Joseph Vallade assisted the presenters.



Photo by Edwina Smith

Dr. (Maj.) Claude Burnett, an obstetrician at the Heidelberg Army Hospital, describes his job to Giessen Middle and High School students during the school's career day. The career day was organized to give students an insight on various professions.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Job fair Dec. 10

The Family Child Care Program hosts a job fair Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Giessen Main Exchange. Learn more about the benefits of FCC providers such as scheduling your own hours, gaining experience and business skills, operating your own business and letting your children enjoy the company of other children. Family Child Care providers are sought for all communities in the 284th Base Support Battalion. Call mil 343-7626 or civ (0641) 402-7626 for details.

Army value tags

The Regional Training Support Center has the new Army value tags GTA 22-06-2005 available in their offices in Friedberg, Giessen and Hanau. Units may submit a memorandum signed by the commander stating the amount of tags required to the RTSC before pickup.

Child Find screening

Butzbach Elementary School hosts a Child Find Screening Jan. 24 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The screening is open to all families in Giessen, Butzbach, Bad Nauheim and Friedberg. Parents who have concerns about their preschoolers' (age 3-5) cognitive, social, emotional, physical or speech development are invited to attend. Call civ (06033) 74520 to arrange an appointment.

Outprocessing briefing

The next PCS/ETS outprocessing briefing takes place Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ITC classroom in Building 4 on the Giessen Depot. A PCS briefing takes place Dec. 28 starting at 10 a.m. in the Old Ironsides Theater in Building 3635 in Friedberg. Spouses are encouraged to attend. For details call mil 343-8077.

Pre-separation briefings

The Army Career and Alumni Program in Giessen hosts mandatory pre-separation briefings upon request. The brief-

ing provides an overview of benefits and entitlements and a referral to specific subject matter experts. Topic include: employment assistance, relocation, education and training, health and life insurance, finances, disability claims and an individual training plan. To arrange an appointment call mil 343-9332.

CIF hours

The Central Issue Facilities in Giessen and Friedberg will be closed Dec. 24 and 31. Both CIFs open Monday to Wednesday from 8-11:30 a.m. Direct exchange and partial turnins can be done from 1-3:30 p.m. Both are closed on Thursday and open Friday from 8-11:30 a.m. for inprocessing (Giessen) and outprocessing (Friedberg). For more information call mil 343-8031 in Giessen or mil 324-2036 in Friedberg.

APO holiday hours

Army Post Offices in Giessen and Friedberg are now open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These hours are effective through Dec. 23. Both offices will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31, Jan. 1 and 15. If you plan on mailing more than five packages at one time call the APO to make arrangements for assistance. The Friedberg APO can be reached at mil 324-3292, and the Giessen APO can be reached at mil 343-8374.

Angel trees

The 284th Base Support Battalion Chaplains Office features Angel Trees through Dec. 15. The community is encouraged to support the program and make it a special Christmas for children. Trees are located throughout the community. Pick the name of a child. Age and gender appropriate wrapped gifts may be dropped off in one of the collection boxes or at an Army Community Service office. Monetary donations are accepted at the Chaplains Office.

For more information call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or the Chaplains Office at mil 343-8020.

Gospel program

A gospel program will be hosted Dec. 10 starting at 7 p.m. at the Giessen Chapel. For details call Nichole Wilson at civ (0641) 480 9506 or the Chaplains Office at mil 343-8020.

BOSS Christmas party

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a Christmas party Dec. 10 from 7-11 p.m. at the Capri Club on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. All single Soldiers, single parents and geographical bachelors are invited and may bring a guest. The cost is \$3 per person, and tickets can be purchased from unit BOSS representatives. Entertainment includes a disc jockey, karaoke and raffles throughout the evening. Prizes include electronic items, gift certificates and trips.

AFAP issues sought

Community members are encouraged to participate in the Army Family Action Plan. AFAP provides Soldiers and families a chance to let leaders know what is working, what needs to be improved and how to fix problems to improve quality of life. Suggestions may be written on suggestion forms and dropped off at drop boxes located at every Army Community Service office, post exchanges, shoppettes and commissaries in the 284th Base Support Battalion. For information call ACS in Giessen at mil 343-7618 or in Friedberg at mil 324-3465.

Personal trainer certification

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center hosts an Aerobics and Fitness Association of America personal trainer certification course Feb. 18-20 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$321.75 including the certificate or \$183.75 for CEU credits only. Registration deadline is Jan. 21. For more information call mil 343-7201/8206.



Photo by Alexandra Williams



Photo by Mary Ann Ernst

Community pulls together

Butzbach Elementary School students help Sgt. Juan Medina of the 284th Base Support Battalion Chaplains Office pack food donations. Photo left: Soldiers of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program put together coupons and gift certificates for the Thanksgiving food baskets for families in Giessen and Friedberg. The holiday food program is an initiative of the Chaplains Office and Army Community Service. "The intent is to support families who need a helping hand over the holidays," said 284th BSB Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry Moates. This year approximately 150 people received support. Donation boxes were placed in all the chapels, schools, outreach centers, banks and in Army Community Service offices.

Technician serves as education guide

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Renate Feldmann, the “heart and soul of the Giessen Education Center,” helps patrons find whatever they are seeking.

Help is often needed because of the many programs offered by education centers in Giessen and Friedberg. They host the Army Learning Centers, sponsor the Headstart class for arriving Soldiers, offer Functional Academic Skills Training classes, Advanced Skills Education Programs, testing programs, offer financial aid and feature other educational incentives.

“We also offer Headstart classes for spouses and correspondence classes. Representatives of four universities are working at our centers. Army Tuition Assistance is offered,” she said, “and we give assistance in finding Volkshochschule classes offered by the city of Giessen.”

Her job requires not only a broad knowledge of services available but also good people skills. “That’s actually my favorite part of the job — I’ve been in the customer service business for 32 years now and I still enjoy it,” she said. “You get to meet so many different people at the education center. Every in- and

outprocessing Soldier has to come through our office, and because of the classes we offer, you get to meet people from all walks of life.”

Feldmann began her career with the Army 22 years ago at the post exchange in Büdingen where she worked for a year. That was followed by a couple of years as a clerk at the Self Service Supply Center in Giessen, the 24th Supply and Support Company as a purchasing agent and the former Giessen Contracting Office as a procurement clerk.

After the Desert Storm deployment in 1991 she started working for the Education Center in Giessen, a decision she never regretted.

“The job includes a lot of office work such as filing, doing reports, putting class list together, but mainly I am the ‘receptionist’ at the center. I love working here because my job is diversified,” she said.

If you have any questions about educational programs available to you, pay a visit to the Giessen Education Center located on the second floor in Building 7 on the Giessen Depot and see Renate Feldmann in her office in Room 205. She will guide you in the right direction.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Education technician Renate Feldmann (right) is the heart and soul of the Giessen Education Center.

Community spotlight

Outdoor Rec trips

An overnight **ski trip to Garmisch** takes place Dec. 13. The cost is \$139 for adults, \$79 for children age 4-13 and \$49 for children up to age 3. Trips to the **Christmas market in Rothenburg** are scheduled for Dec. 13 and **Nürnberg** Dec. 20. Both trips cost \$20 for adults, \$10 for children age 4-13 and \$5 for children up to age 3. For more information call mil 343-8202.

ACS events

A **Holiday Open House** will be held Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Friedberg Army Community Service. Join the staff for holiday treats, coffee, tea and juice. Children are welcome. A **Soup’s On luncheon** takes place Dec. 16 at Giessen ACS. This free lunch is open to all and participants can bring their favorite dish or family recipe. Butzbach Outreach Center hosts a **Good Morning**

Coffee and Tea Time every Monday to Friday from 8-10 a.m. For details call Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or Butzbach Outreach Center at mil 324-3566.

Childbirth class

The New Parent Education and Support Program hosts a Childbirth class Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACS office on the Giessen Depot. Participants will receive valuable information that helps parents prepare mentally and physically for the birth of their baby. For more information and to register call mil 343-9311/8076/7618.

‘Little Women’ at Keller Theater

Giessen’s Keller Theater presents the play “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott Dec. 9-11 and 16-18 starting at 7 p.m. To reserve tickets call the box office Wednesday through Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. at mil 343-6515.

Friedberg bowling update

Ham Bowl runs through Dec. 23. Bowl three strikes in a row and receive a ham for Christmas. The cost is \$8 entry plus lane fees. The center opens Dec 17 from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. and will be closed Dec. 24, 25,

and Jan. 1. For more information call mil 324-3270.

Security Office closed

The 284th Base Support Battalion Security Office will be closed Dec. 20-29. For assistance and fingerprinting appointments during those periods call mil 343-7051/7031.

Illegal to idle

Leaving automobiles idling to defrost or warm up is against host nation law. Offenders can be fined. The same applies to running errands. Remember it only takes a thief seconds to jump in your car and drive off.

Battery collection point

A new battery collection container for carbon zinc, manganese and alkaline batteries has been placed in the Giessen Post Exchange at the front of the store near the cashiers. Used batteries should not be placed in the residual household containers. Other battery collection points are at the Giessen Commissary and Shoppette, The Friedberg PX, the Butzbach Shoppette and the Bad Nauheim Commissary. For more information

on recycling call Marsha Williams at the 284th BSB DPW environmental management office at mil 343-6304.

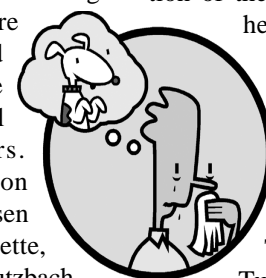
On post taxi service

On post taxi and mini car service is now available for the Giessen Depot, Marshall and Dulles Housing areas. Services include pickup, delivery and group transportation on and off post. Call civ (0641) 43030 or civ (0641) 35110 or toll free at civ (0800) 06464227.

Don’t abandon pets

The Giessen Tierheim (animal shelter) encourages pet owners not to abandon their pets if they can no longer keep them. Many abandoned pets are killed in accidents or die of starvation and thirst. The Tierheim will take pets that cannot be kept and find a new home for them. No pet will be killed and no questions are asked other than a true description of the animal’s character to help in finding a suitable home. For a small fee the Tierheim also boards pets for owners who will be away from home. For details call civ (0641) 52251.

The Tierheim is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3-6 p.m.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Community notes . . . Community notes

Tree lighting ceremonies

Hanau holds a tree lighting Dec. 10 at 4:30 p.m. at the flag pole on the Pioneer Kaserne parade field. The Hanau Middle School Band will play holiday music and Santa Claus will light the tree and hand out goodie bags. After the tree lighting guests can indulge in holiday shopping at the **Christmas Bazaar** inside the Pioneer Fitness Center. It will feature gifts and crafts from vendors across Europe. The Christmas Bazaar will be open Dec. 10 from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The **4th Aviation Brigade** holds a tree lighting Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. in front of the shoppette and Community Mail Room. There will be holiday music, and Santa will stop by to light the tree.

Breakfast with Santa

Enjoy breakfast with Santa Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hanau Community Activity Center (International) on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The event will feature an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$5.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children age 5-12 and free for under age 4. Photos with Santa, story and craft time for children, European Christmas ornaments and Christmas decorations will be featured.

Credit union holiday hours

Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Dec. 11, 25 and Jan. 1. It will have reduced hours Dec. 31 and will only be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Troops Encounter Christ

A Troops Encounter Christ weekend retreat will be held Jan. 7-9 at the Schonstatt retreat house in Vallendar (near Koblenz). Designed primarily for members of the Catholic community, although members of other faiths are welcome, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about their relationship with Christ and their church. Cost is €30. The first 20 people to sign up are free. Call Gerri Merkel at mil 323-3224, civ (06181) 180-3224 or email gerri.merkel@104asg.army.mil for more information and a registration form. Registration forms must be returned by Dec. 20.

Hanau USO seeks help

Hanau USO seeks a part-time information and referral specialist. Stop by at the USO Lounge on Pioneer Kaserne, Building 9, or call mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 88-8725.

Red Cross classes

The Hanau Red Cross offers **Professional CPR** Dec. 15, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Jan. 13, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; **CPR Instructor Training** Jan. 18-21, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Candidates for the instructor training must be certified in Professional CPR. Call Sharon Guerrero at mil 322-1720 or civ (06181) 88-1720 for details.

Protestant Christmas Eve Service

A Christmas Eve Service will be held Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at Fliegerhorst Chapel. Call Chaplain Trotter at mil 322-7525 or civ (06181) 88-7525.

Baby swap shops

Do you have any baby clothes you would



Photo by Pennie Allen

Bringing stories to life in Gelnhausen

Alexandria George, a Gelnhausen Elementary School first-grader, listens to fifth-grader Sierra Herndon tell a story as she portrays Laura Ingles Wilder in the school's Living Storybook Museum in celebration of National Book Week. Meanwhile fifth-grader Elizabeth Davis (portraying Elizabeth Nutting) waits to be "zapped" to life to tell her story. Students acted the parts of various storybook characters such as Sister Lucy from "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and Cinderella to entertain their fellow students.

like to swap for new ones? Visit the Büdingen or Wolfgang Outreach Center swap shops weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see the latest in baby clothes. Donations are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Swap shops are at the Büdingen Army Community Service Family Outreach Center on Armstrong Barracks, Building 2207 and at the Wolfgang Outreach Center at the Wolfgang Shopping Center, Building 514. Call Keylah Bonebrake, Büdingen ACS manager, at mil 321-4786 or civ (06042) 80-786 for details.

Bowling League

Join the 414th Base Support Battalion Bowling League Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Hessen Bowl at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. The league will bowl for 12 weeks through February 2005. Bowlers and non-bowlers are welcome. Call Mrs. Tucker at mil 322-8673 or civ (06181) 88-8673.

Hanau High College/Career Day Dec. 10

Hanau High School will host a College and Career Day Dec. 10 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Galaxy Middle School/Teen Center. Graduates of colleges and technical schools are sought to participate. Call civ (06181) 88-9765 or 906-9939.

Flu Shots

The Hanau Health Clinic has influenza vaccine for active duty personnel, retirees and their family members as well as for high risk patients. High-risk patients are children age six to 23 months, adults age 65 and older, all pregnant women, people with underlying medical conditions, out-of-home caregivers of infants younger than six months and people with serious allergies. Parents of children

under age 7 are asked to schedule an appointment with a physician before vaccination. Deploying Soldiers receive the vaccine at their predeployment briefing. The Hanau Health Clinic provides flu vaccinations at its Immunization Clinic Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 7:30-11 a.m. and Thursday from 1-4 p.m. Call mil 328-6658 or civ (06181) 500-6658.

Ethics training

Mandatory ethics training classes have been scheduled for Dec. 14 and 28 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Evening Star Theater on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. The training must occur before the end of the calendar year. Large groups are asked to sign up at the Hanau Legal Center. Call Mrs. Vasquez at mil 322-8468 or civ (06181) 88-8468 for more information.

Army Family Action Plan

AFAP committee meetings will be held Dec. 13 at 11 a.m., Jan. 5 at 11 a.m. and Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. at Hanau Army Community Service, Building 9, on Pioneer Kaserne. Call Amy Cuebas at mil 322-8766 or civ (06181) 88-8766 for information.

Kid's Korner activities

Kid's Korner bingo will be held Dec. 17 and a Kid's Korner Teen Party has been scheduled for Dec. 31. The Kid's Korner is open Wednesday to Friday from 3-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call mil 322-9013 or civ (06181) 88-9013.

USO highlights

Rhein Main Area USOs in Wiesbaden, Hanau, at Rhein-Main Air Base and the Frankfurt Airport feature the following upcoming tours and events: **Metz Christmas Market**

Dec. 11, **Cologne Christmas Market by Train**
Dec. 12, **Skiing in Austria** Dec. 16-19, **Rothenburg Christmas Market** Dec. 18, **Rome (Florence and Pisa)** Dec. 22-28, **Paris** Dec. 29 to Jan. 1, **Frankfurt by Train** Jan. 8, **Luxembourg City** Jan. 15, **Prague** Jan. 15-17. Stop by the USOs for more information.

Outdoor Rec trips

Outdoor Recreation on Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Building 1355, offers a trip to the **Nürnberg Christmas Market** Dec. 11, **Dresden Christmas Market** Dec. 18 and **Rome** Dec. 21-26. Call mil 322-6015 or civ (06183) 51-6015.

Adopt an Angel Program

Army Community Service sponsors the 2004 Adopt an Angel Program to help brighten the holidays for needy families. The Adopt an Angel Christmas Tree is situated inside the Post Exchange at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. Angel cards list the first name, gender, age, clothing size and requested gifts, along with an administrative number that will protect the family's privacy. People who want to sponsor a child can pick an angel card from the tree, purchase the requested gift(s) and bring the unwrapped presents along with the angel card to Hanau ACS Building 9, Room 105, by Dec. 13. Families will be selected for the Adopt an Angel Program through unit referrals. Participating children must be dependents under age 17. For more information call mil 322-8963/8965 or civ (06181) 88-8963/8965.

ACAP workshop

Public Law 107-103 requires Soldiers attend a pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separation date. Soldiers are encouraged to begin as early as one year before ETS or two years before retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend as well. Orders are not required to attend. The next workshops have been scheduled for Dec. 14-15. Since the sessions fill up quickly, early reservation is recommended. Call mil 322-8356 or civ (06181) 88-8356 for information and sign-up.

Catholic holiday schedule

Fliegerhorst Chapel will host the following Catholic services throughout the holiday season: Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. **Parish Reconciliation Service**, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. **Mass**, Dec. 24 at 3 p.m. **Children's Christmas Eve Mass**, Dec. 24 at 11:30 p.m. **Christmas Caroling**, Dec. 24 at midnight **Christmas Midnight Mass**, Dec. 25 at 12:45 p.m. **Christmas Bilingual Mass**

ACS classes and programs

A class on **Stress Management** will be held Dec. 7 and 14 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. A class on **Couples Communication/Conflict Resolution** has been scheduled for Dec. 8 and 15 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. **Sponsorship Training** is offered every first and third Friday from 10-11 a.m. and a class called **Ready, Get Set, Move** is held every fourth Tuesday from 9-11:30 a.m. All classes are held at the Army Community Service Conference Room, Building 9, on Pioneer Kaserne.

Playhouse offers wacky holiday farce

Comic mayhem rules in 'Sorry, Wrong Chimney'

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Burglar Santas, department store Santas, hypnotized Santas, Santas in love — will the real Santa please stand up.

Hanau's Five Pfennig Playhouse invites audiences to try to sort out this comedy of errors with its holiday production, "Sorry, Wrong Chimney."

The rapid-fire farce opens on a familiar-sounding holiday note. Newlywed David Tuttle is a little strapped for cash but wants to buy his wife, Samantha, a fur stole for Christmas. To earn a little extra dough he decides to moonlight as a department-store Santa.

"When she calls his office and finds that he's not there working late, she is convinced he's having an affair," said William Hauserman, the play's director and 414th Base Support Battalion entertainment director.

Misplaced suspicion

Samantha confides in her neighbor, Natalie, who's in on David's secret and assures her there is no monkey business involved. This only adds fuel to Samantha's suspicions — only now she thinks Natalie is the other woman.

When Natalie's psychiatrist



Photo by Sven-Olaf Lippke

Christie Kessler (from left), Laura James, Spc. Donald Chesser, James Ehrenreich and Alena Chesser rehearse a scene from the Hanau Five Pfennig Playhouse's "Sorry, Wrong Chimney."

husband, Bill, learns of Samantha's plight he decides to hypnotize the wayward husband into loving his wife again, only to accidentally hypnotize Kris Kreigle, a burglar who plies his illegal trade disguised as the jolly old elf.

"Pandemonium ensues," said Hauserman, especially when David is hypnotized into thinking he's the burglar and a policeman arrives on

the scene only to be hypnotized into thinking he's a male stripper hired to entertain a holiday gathering.

"There are a lot of jokes," said Hauserman, "mistaken identities, broad humor, and it's very fast paced. It's a challenge for the audience to keep track of who's who. It's a lot of fun — there are chase sequences and things like that."

"It's really funny," said Spc. Donald Chesser, a 1-1st Cavalry Soldier from Büdingen who plays the role of David Tuttle. "It has a pretty good twist that will keep everyone's interest. When I was reading through the script I couldn't stop laughing. ... It's really exciting watching it all come together."

Chesser, a newcomer to the Five Pfennig theater scene, got involved

when he brought his wife, Alena, to audition for the play. "I thought maybe I'd volunteer to work backstage, but they talked me into auditioning," he said.

While Alena was chosen to play the part of Samantha Tuttle, Joey was picked to play her husband, David.

"I'm anxious to see how many people will come out. I think it's worth everyone's time to come and see it," he said.

Non-musical

Hauserman said he selected the holiday comedy by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears after deciding not to do a musical this year. "Basically I was looking through the catalog of available plays and found this one by playwrights who are familiar to me. We've done a couple of their shows in the past," he said. "I wanted to do a non-musical to balance out the year."

The Hanau production features a mix of experienced players and newcomers, Hauserman added. "A little more than half of the cast are new to the theater. They're doing a good job."

"Sorry, Wrong Chimney" opened last weekend and continues with shows Dec. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Five Pfennig Playhouse is located in Building 405 on Hanau's Old Argonner Kaserne. Pick up tickets at the Hanau USO in Building 9 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne or make reservations by calling mil 322-8725.



Photos by Karl Weisel

USO holiday feast

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Byerly, 130th Engineer Brigade, and his wife, Annemarie, enjoy the good eats at the free USO Thanksgiving feast on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne Nov. 24. Photo right: Bianca Moton, Hanau USO manager, looks on as Maj. Ciro Stefano, 414th BSB S-3, carves one of the 12 turkeys at the free USO holiday meal. "This is the USO's way of saying thank you to the community," said Moton.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Middle-schoolers express concerns

During mini Army Family Action Plan conference

By Amy Cuebas
Army Family Action Plan coordinator

This past month Hanau Middle School youths got a chance to see the workings of the Army Family Action Plan up close.

The 414th Base Support Battalion conducted a mini AFAP conference for selected students Nov. 10. Fifty youths voiced their opinions about school and community issues. The group was composed of children from grades six through eight, and the issues raised will be brought to light at the 414th BSB AFAP Conference Jan. 25-27.

Lt. Col. Amy Ehmann, 414th BSB commander, had the idea of implementing a separate AFAP conference for the middle

school students to ensure their voices were heard. In the past high school students represented all teen issues within the community at the Hanau AFAP Conference. Because of school requirements the middle school Students were not included. But this year Hanau Middle School administrators allowed the youths to experience a conference of their own facilitated by Army Community Service and Child and Youth Services.

The middle-schoolers received training on the entire AFAP process to help them understand the importance of the program. Then they moved into BSB and Directorate of Community Activity conference rooms to get started. Training included information about the purpose of AFAP as a Department of the Army Program, the impact of the program, the role each student would play and how to reach consensus in a group of more than 20 students.

Before the mini AFAP conference all middle school youths

submitted issues. With adult assistance, the children were able to voice their opinions, formulate priorities, reach consensus and produce well-written issues for the local AFAP Conference. The students accomplished these tasks quickly and efficiently. Youths were divided into two work groups (community and school), based on the issues forwarded from the school.

The following were the six top issues Hanau Middle Students came up with: Army and Air Force Exchange Service school lunch prices, onpost activities for teens, community clean-up responsibilities, after school activities, sexual harassment in the school/community and AAFES Food Court choices.

The 414th BSB community is still looking for issues for the upcoming AFAP Conference. Issues may be submitted by email to afap.issues@104asg.mwr.army.mil. Call mil 322-8766 for more information.



Photo by Midori VanBrunt



Photo by Ulrike Raab

Celebrating Native American Month

Native Americans performed at various events in Hanau and Büdingen to help raise awareness about the rich cultural heritage of America's original inhabitants. On Nov.

17 Ella Garlits, a member of the Navajo tribe, Claudia Fox Tree from the Arawak-Taino Nation and Sgt. 1st Class Mitchelene Big Man from the Crow Nation talked to and performed for students at Argonner Elementary School and Hanau Middle School. Garlits explained the use of various Native American tools while her fellow Native Americans performed Indian dances and music. Photo above right: Sgt. 1st

Class Mitchelene Big Man shows Hanau Middle School students how her jingle dress creates the sound of rain when she dances. The Native American Soldier makes her own dresses. Photo above left: White Eagle Dancers Boe Harris from Delaware and Jay Robert from Oklahoma perform a traditional Indian dance at Hutier Kaserne's Touch of Home Cafe Dining Facility on Thanksgiving. "We are proud of all the Soldiers and what they are doing, and we pray for them," said White

Eagle dancer Ray E. Atencio, tour manager for the group. Photo right: Claudio Fox Tree, from Bedford, Mass., keeps the beat while Hanau Middle School students catch the Native American spirit.



Photo by Ulrike Raab

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau



Photos by Ulrike Raab

Gearing up for Thanksgiving competition, feast

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Smith, assistant manager, and fellow staff members at the John F. Kennedy Dining Facility on Fliegerhorst Kaserne prepare the Thanksgiving holiday meal in preparation of feeding Soldiers and their families. This year also included a competition to decide which facility was the best. A crew of 45 Soldiers cooked through the night to prepare for the holiday meal. Manager Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Guidry, Smith and the staff created more than 20 displays including ice sculptures (photo left), cakes, pies and other food items. In addition to the traditional fare diners were also treated to an assortment of fish dishes including trout, crab legs and lobster tails.

Force protection measures tighten security

By Christopher L. Thompson

414th Base Support Battalion
force protection officer

Force protection is an ongoing mission at every installation in the Hanau military community.

Nasatka barriers

One of the community's current upgrades is the installation of Nasatka barriers at access control points designed to prevent perimeter vehicle penetration. With the

installment of the barriers, traffic patterns have and/or will change, and traffic delays can be expected.

Drivers entering the barriers must use "walking-pace" speed to avoid damage to the undercarriage of their vehicle. They should also center their vehicle on the center support rails of the barriers. All vehicles should be 10 centimeters off the ground or higher — that's the legal limit. Any vehicles lower than the minimum can expect pos-

sible damage, repairable at the owner's expense.

Installation Access Control System

The IACS program has been in test mode throughout the 414th Base Support Battalion. By networking a central database throughout Military Police stations, IACS offices and central processing facilities, the system can easily identify stolen or expired ID cards and installation

passes, as well as pinpoint individuals who have been barred from a particular installation.

The IACS system should be fully operational by January 2005.

Registration in the IACS office, located in Building 21 on Pioneer Kaserne, has been an intense and ongoing process. As soon as the system goes active, those people who have not registered can expect delays and inconveniences upon entering installations.

The ID card scanning process should take no longer than the original way of checking ID cards. Officials remind community members that the process is not intended to expedite getting people onto the installation; its purpose is to ensure only authorized personnel are allowed onto the installation.

Community members are thanked for their patience and understanding with the new security processes which are designed to protect everyone.



Photo by Midori VanBrunt

Turkeys for Troops

Sgt. Maj. Don Gower (left) and Staff Sgt. John Leandro of the 709th Military Police Battalion load turkeys at Old Argonner Kaserne Nov. 23 as part of the Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association's annual Turkeys for Troops program. This year's food drive by the warrant officers, Hanau schools, Girls Scouts and others provided turkey dinner for more than 266 needy families.

